FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 FEBRUARY 1984

Lebanon

Lebanese-Syrian Summit — President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived inDamascus and began a summit meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad Damascus radio reported. According to an announcement by Al-Jumayyil's office on 29 February, carried by Beirut radio, the talks will focus on "the entire Lebanese situation and the course Lebanon is to take to cancel the 17 May accord."

However, former President Camille Sham'un urged Al-Jumayyil not to visit Damascus "after Syria has ignored the simplest duties toward the Lebanese Government," the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. The 17 May agreement with Israel should not be unilaterally abrogated, Sham'un asserted, and the Syrians and their foreign associates should first withdraw from all Lebanese territory. He warned that if Al-Jumayyil disregards this advice, he will withdraw support for the government and refuse to participate in any government or dialogue conference. Phalangist military commander Fadi Afram likewise condemned abrogation of the 17 May agreement as "capitulation to Syria" and stressed the need to ratify the agreement with Israel, the radio noted. On the other hand, Syrian radio and press commentaries, broadcast by Damascus radio, reaffirmed Syria's demand for the cancellation of the agreement.

Military Situation — Clashes continued in Beirut and Lebanese army positions in Suq al-Gharb again came under fire, according to Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios. The Army killed 10 gunmen and destroyed several of their vehicles in Baysur and Shimlan, the Voice of Lebanon added. Meanwhile, two Israeli soldiers were killed in an ambush northeast of An-Nabatiyah, Jerusalem radio announced.

Iran-Iraq War

"Under no circumstances" will Iran accept the "special conditions and rights" that the United States has announced for its naval units in a communique issued to all countries in the Gulf region, a spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry stated in remarks reported by Tehran radio. Iran "strongly condemns" as a form of "blackmail and aggression" both the "illegal" presence of U.S. naval units in the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman and the "baseless, worthless" U.S. "claim of sovereignty" over an unspecified area of international water. The U.S. government bears responsibility for any U.S. action which leads to an "incident" in the region and which can be considered a "serious threat" to the current situation in the Straightof Hormuz, the spokesman added.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, in a 28 February speech carried by Tehran radio, dismissed President Reagan's statement that the United States would not allow Hormuz to be closed. Khomeyni said the situation is no longer as it was before when U.S. "permission was sought." Now it is up to Iran to grant permission and in a confrontation with a "nation," the United States will be defeated. Regarding the Iraqi leader, Khomeyni said that "Saddam is going to fall" and neither America nor any other power can keep him in office.

Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan confirmed the Iraqi air raid against the Iranian oil terminal on Khark Island despite Iranian denials, according to AFP and Paris radio reports. The operation was carried out as a "clear warning" and not a bluff, he added. The Iraqi official, who is in Paris to discuss French loans, said that the Super Etendards delivered by France last fall have been "ready for use for some time," but he did not acknowledge their actual use in the most recent air raids, AFP reported.

Meanwhile, four Iranian divisions were "wiped out" by Iraqi troops when they attempted a "foolhardy and stupid" operation to infiltrate the Al-Huwayzah marshes, a 28 February Armed Forces General Command Communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio reported. The Iraqi counteroffensive succeeded in recapturing the town of Al-Baydah, the communique added. In other developments, Iraqi Minister of Culture and Information Latif Nusayyif Jasim ad-Dulaymi said that 30,000 Iranian troops were killed in battles in the Maysan operational sector over the last 3 days, INA reported. An Iraqi military spokesman, in a statement to INA, denied Iranian claims that two Iraqi planes were shot down in the Khaybar operational zone on 28 February. Iran has committed a "new crime" by executing the Iraqi soldiers it captured during battles east of Basra earlier this month, INA announced citing Iraqi officers who had managed to escape.

An Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio on 28 February reported the halting of two Iraqi counteroffensives, one in the Al-'Uzayr sector and one in the sector south of Majnun. More than 700 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded during these battles, the communique added. Losses were inflicted on Iraqi industrial and military installations by artillery fire against the cities of Basra, Khanaqin and Mandali, another military communique announced. The Iranian cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr continued to come under long-range Iraqi artillery fire while Iraqi planes bombed the city of Dehloran in Ilam province, IRNA reported. Iraqi planes also attacked Bakhtaran, killing 19 civilians and injuring more than 80 others, Tehran radio said.

Jerusalem Attack

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) claimed responsibility for the 28 February Jerusalem grenade attack in a communique from Damascus reported by AFP. The DFLP communique said the "Sami abu Ghawsh" commando had inflicted "heavy losses" on "Jewish colonizers." An anonymous caller subsequently telephoned AFP's Paris headquarters

to claim responsibility for the attack on behalf of the "Al-'Asifah units of Fatah."

PLO-Jordan

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will resume his discussions with Jordanian prime minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat on 29 February and the current talks will result in a joint statement defining a "unified stand," the Amman paper *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* reported. Meanwhile, 'Arafat met with 42 personalities from the Israeli-occupied West Bank, the *JORDAN TIMES* noted.

Reporting on Jordan's diplomatic moves, Jerusalem radio's Arabic service claimed that King Husayn has informed the United States that he wishes to enter peaceful negotiations with Israel within a few weeks, with or without 'Arafat. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz divulged Husayn's position to Israeli Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres during their recent meeting in Washington, the radio added. However, Israeli political circles cited by Jerusalem radio subsequently described this as "exaggerated," contending that such reports are disseminated by U.S. officials to demonstrate that the United States is continuing its efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

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South Asian Regional Cooperation Meeting Opens in Delhi

BK270957 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] The [Indian] external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, has cautioned the South Asian countries against vested and narrow interests which tend to obstruct cooperation among the developing countries. He was inaugurating the first conference of the standing committee of the 7-nation South Asian Regional Cooperation [SARC] in New Delhi today. The committee consists of the foreign secretaries of Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and India.

Mr Rao noted that the seven countries have embarked upon a program of regional cooperation covering important areas like infrastructure and planning. The implementation of the program has already begun.

In his opening remarks, the foreign secretary, Mr Rasgotra, said one of the important objectives of the SARC is to evolve closer cooperation in international forums on matters of common interest to the region. He announced that India has allocated 75 lakh rupees for the SARC programs for 1984-85 as against 50 lakhs in the previous year.

First Meeting Ends 28 Feb

BK281624 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Foreign secretaries of seven South Asian countries have expressed grave concern at the continuing impasse in the North-South dialogue and underlined the importance of concessional finance for them.

The foreign secretaries, who constituted the standing committee of the South Asian Regional Cooperation, concluded their first meeting in New Delhi today. The committee called for renewed efforts to secure fundamental restructuring of the international economic order. It expressed serious disappointment and concern at the recent decision regarding the level of the seventh replenishment of the resources of the International Development Association.

Leaders Address Meeting on Land, Water Reform
LD171042 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Excerpts] To implement democratic land reform and the fair distribution of water for irrigation in the villages, a meeting was held today at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, delivered an instructive and comprehensive speech on the implementation of democratic land and water reform.

Babrak Karmal said: I am pleased on behalf of the party and state to congratulate you on your meetings in connection with land and water reform. As the agenda for future meetings of the seminar show, detailed reports on technical matters involving Decree No 8 and other amendments and laws dealing with the tasks of the party and state in the area of land and water reform are being presented. He added: All comrades know that the solution to the problem of the distribution of farm land through democratic land reform has been one of the principle aims of the PDPA for nearly 20 years.

Pointing out the importance of democratic land and water reform, Babrak Karmal said: Had it not been for the elimination of the enemies of the April Revolution and the struggle against reaction and imperialism, which are our prime tasks, I would have declared that our central task is to achieve democratic land and water reform. The realization of land and water reform, correct behavior toward the peasants, and the recruitment of peasants and the peasants union are decisive factors in crushing the counterrevolution.

In a part of his speech, Babrak Karmal said: Methods of severity and anger should not be used against the peasant classes of the country. This should be a major principle. Whoever deviates from this principle and tries to coerce the peasants will be considered agents of the counterrevolutionaries.

In connection with the creation of the peasant council, peasant committees, and peasant cooperatives, which are at the top of the agenda of our party and state in an effort to improve the peasant class, Babrak Karmal spoke in detail and critically assessed the tasks of the party organizations and state organs in achieving these goals. He said: Let all of us declare, loudly and clearly, that we are determined to realize democratic land and water reform. We are confident that our revolution is victorious and our society is being transformed into a new and prosperous society.

The meeting was opened at 0900 under the chairmanship of Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers.

The chairman of the Council of Ministers said: With the implementation of the first phase of land reform after the victory of the April Revolution, a large number of peasant families received lands. However, the aim of the party was not accomplished. A number of mistakes occurred. But after the victory of the new development stage of the April Revolution, practical measures were taken to achieve this major goal of the national democratic revolution — the implementation of land reform in the interest of the toiling peasants and with their participation.

Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand said: In accordance with the instructions of Babrak Karmal, who has said that the implementation of land and water reform constitutes the main direction of party and state activity in the interests of the toiling peasants, achieving this important task, that is, the complete elimination of the vestiges of feudalist and semifeudalist relations, the elimination of big land ownership and the distribution of land to the landless and to those with small plots of land, along with rendering effective assistance to the toiling peasants, raising the level of agricultural production, and updating agricultural production methods are the order of the day in the struggle of our revolutionary party and state. Today's important meeting has been convened to achieve this goal.

Saleh Mohammad Ziray, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, then explained the major aspects of the work and activity of the party and state organs in implementing land and water reform.

Saleh Mohammad Ziray said: As true revolutionaries, we do not have the right to evade urgent tasks under the pretext of the lack of readiness of peasants or the lack of objective conditions. We ought actively to create such conditions. It is also completely clear that we must help the peasants to understand and support the new stage in their lives. They must feel the impact of its example in the daily activities of the party and state organs.

Saleh Mohammad Ziray said: The fundamental task of the party committees and the local organs of state power is to effectively organize and utilize the existing opportunities to realize all revolutionary tasks, including the continuation of democratic land and water reform.

Concluding his statement, he said: All party committes and local organs of administration, and especially the officials in charge of them, must count active participation in the implementation of the land and water reform as an inseparable part of their daily tasks. They must make every possible effort to accomplish this task. Therefore, every party committee and the state local organs ought to have working plans and specific measures to accomplish their proper role in realizing this great task of the party, state, and revolution.

Provinces Celebrate Soviet Army Anniversary
LD242141 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] A glorious meeting was held yesterday in the auditorium of the gas and petroleum enterprise of Mazar-e Sharif on the occasion of the 66th anniversary of the Soviet Union's powerful Red Army.

This meeting was attended by Sayd Nasim Mayhanparast, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee and head of the Northern Zone, a large number of peasants and workers, members of social organizations, officers and men of the Armed

Forces, heads of departments and enterprises, and a number of officers and men of the limited Soviet contingents in this province.

At this meeting, secretary of the provincial party committee, Balkh Province, and others spoke about the foundation of the heroic Army of the USSR and its struggle and role in the defense of peace and interests of world toilers.

Similar meetings also were held on this occasion in the land reform department, public health department, andeducation and training department of Balkh Province.

According to another report from Paktia Province, a similar meeting was held by the officers and men of III Army Corps, Paktia Province. At this meeting, commanders of the Army Corps and the governor of Paktia spoke on the 66th anniversary of the Soviet's powerful Army.

BAKHTAR: U.S. To Step Up Anti-Afghan Campaign

LD261256 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Kabul, February 25, BAKHTAR — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is examining a resolution on rendering aid to "Afghan freedom fighters," as the Afghan counter-revolutionary rabble are called in the USA. If the resolution is approved by both chambers of the US Congress, the *WASHINGTON POST* noted recently, the Reagan administration will have the right to render open assistance to Afghan cutthroats.

Washington has been organizing, financing and guiding the undeclared war against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan for the sixth year running. The White House has never concealed that it is engaged in "secret operations" against the Afghan republic for which the CIA spends annually 100 million dollars. The bulk of these funds goes for purchasing weapons for counter-revolutionary gangs and for training terrorists at special camps in Pakistan. However, US efforts aimed at undermining the gains of the April Revolution have failed. The discussion of the question on legalizing the aid to counter-revolutionary detachments shows that Washington is ready to step up subversive activities against Afghanistan. The open support of Afghan cutthroats may become a new stage of the US undeclared war against the Afghan people. The adoption of the resolution will give freedom to the Reagan administration which already turned its close cooperation with counterrevolutionaries in Asia, Africa and Latin America into a principal element of its foreign policy.

Karachi Reports on Recent Mujahidin Operations

Baghlan-Taluqan Highway Closed

BK270835 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have gained control of the highway linking the provincial headquarters of Baghlan and Taluqan. The reports say that the highway has been closed following fighting between Afghan mujahidin and the Soviet-Karmal forces.

Another report says the Afghan mujahidin ambushed the security post adjoining the trade center of Herat market of Qandahar town early in the month; as a result, a number of Soviet-Karmal soldiers were killed and some of them were wounded.

Dar ol Aman Attacked

BK280326 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] A report received from Afghanistan says that the mujahidin on 21 February attacked the Soviet military headquarters at Dar ol Aman in Kabul City with rockets and other heavy weapons.

The report says 22 peoples were killed and 12 tanks and armored vehicles were damaged in the attack. The following day, Soviet contingents attacked the civilian population at Chahar Dehi and (Morgh Gran) in the outskirts of the city resulting in the deaths of a woman and three children.

Voice of Islamic Revolution Reports on Fighting

Ghazni, Paktia Provinces

GF121932 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1719 GMT 12 Feb 84

[Text] Our Muslim revolutionaries attacked a (?patrol) unit of Soviet occupation forces and personnel of Karmal's puppet regime during an operation in Ghazni Province and inflicted some casualties.

In other operations carried out in Paktia Province, our Muslim revolutionaries attacked an observation post of the occupying Red Army and Karmal's regime and destroyed the position. We have received no reports concerning the casualties suffered by the Soviet occupation forces or Karmal's regime.

'State of Alert'

GF141004 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1718 GMT 13 Feb 84

[Text] According to reports coming from the leaders of the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries, a number of military units of our Muslim revolutionary brothers have been in a state of alert since 2 days ago. The sources cite the recent events in the region and the world, especially the situation in Lebanon, Iran, Andropov's death, and also a series of secret arrangements between the United States, Soviet Union, France, and the reactionary regimes of the region for a joint offensive against the Islamic Revolution as the major reasons for the state of alert of the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries.

'Increased' Kabul Operations

GF250718 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1700 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] In a series of operations, our Muslim and revolutionary brothers inflicted heavy losses and damage on the occupying forces of the Soviet Union and the puppet regime of Karmal. In addition, the Soviet Embassy in Kabul was damaged by a rocket attack of our Muslim revolutionaries. This attack was carried out in spite of heavy security measures surrounding the Soviet Embassy in Kabul.

During the last 2 weeks, our Muslim mujahidin have increased their operations in Kabul and other occupied cities of our Islamic country and have caused great terror among the occupying forces of the Soviet Union and the puppet regime of Karmal. It has reached the extent that the (?carriers) and the heavy artillery of these forces have bombarded many villages of our Islamic country and have wounded and martyred a number of our defenseless Muslims.

At the beginning of this week, our Muslim and revolutionary brothers killed four members of the occupationist forces of the Soviet Union and wounded other usurpers of Afghanistan, following the explosion of a remote-controlled bomb which destroyed a military jeep of the Soviet occupationist regime. Also during the last 2 weeks, our Muslim revolutionaries attacked a joint base of the occupying forces of the Soviet and the regime of Karmal with their heavy artillery many times. There is no news yet on the number of losses and amount of damages.

Rebel Groups Repent, Join DRA Cause

LD182334 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] In view of the DRA Revolutionary Council's amnesty decree and message of the glorious session of the country's social figures, tribes, and nationalities, today a 60-man group, belonging to the so-called Hezb-e Eslami band expressed its solidarity and unity with our revolutionary government in Kalakan village, Mir Bacheh Kowt district, Kabul Province,

The BIA correspondent reports that members of this group, led by Abdol Ahmad, possessing various weapons, repented their past antirevolutionary actions, perpetrated as a result of the incitement of the enemies of the April Revolution headed by the criminal U.S. imperialism, gave assurances that they would not fall prey again to the deception of the slanderous and treacherous propaganda of the counterrevolutionary elements.

Courageously and fearlessly, they assured our party and revolutionary government that henceforth they were going to use their weapons for the defense of the lofty objectives of the April Revolution, safeguarding the independence and territorial integrity of the country, and were not going to provide an opportunity to the exported mercenaries to annoy and trouble our toiling people.

According to another report, a number of the armed counterrevolutionary elements recently joined our revolutionary government in the environs of Faryab Province. These people, who had links with various rebel bands, in expressing regret and repentance for their past deeds, gave assurances that they would fight to the end for the defense of the gains of the April Revolution.

50 Surrender in Takhar

LD261357 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0443 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Kabul, Feb 25, BAKHTAR — Two armed groups of fifty persons related to the Jamiat band surrendered themselves with their arms to the government forces in Khowaja-Ghar district of Takhar Province.

Abdul Hamid and Timore, the ringleaders of these groups repenting their past actions, pledged the solidarity of their groups with the party and revolutionary state of the DRA, and to defend their villages against the counter-revolutionaries.

AFP: Ershad Reschedules Elections for 27 May

BK291155 Hong Kong AFP in English 1148 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 29 (AFP) — Bangladesh's President Lt General Hussain Mohammed Ershad today rescheduled presidential and parliamentary elections, saying both would now be held simultaneously on May 27.

The military ruler also announced that free political activities, suspended last November following violent disturbances, would be restored from March 26 to coincide with the country's 13th anniversary of independence.

In an eight-minute address to the nation broadcast over radio and television this evening, President Ershad however maintained that the controversial upazila (sub-district) elections, which the two major opposition alliances want to see postponed, would be held as scheduled on March 24. The parliamentary elections had earlier been scheduled for November 25.

Gen. Ershad said that his decision to reschedule the elections and allow free political activities from next month had been taken in the light of his dialogue with leaders and political parties since the first week of January. But the country's two major political alliances — the 15-party and the seven-party alliances led by the two most organised and largest political parties, the Awami League (Hasina) and Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) respectively, turned down Ershad's invitation to join the dialogue.

The 15-party alliance led by the Awami League and the seven-party combine led by the BNP instead put forward an identical 5-point demand that called for the lifting of martial law, the restoration of civil rights, free political activities, the release of political prisoners and above all the holding of parliamentary elections before the local polls.

General Ershad's address today came in the midst of a tense political situation following the death under the wheels of a police van of two students during an anti-government procession yesterday.

It also came just on the eve of a country-wide general strike called by the two opposition alliances scheduled for tomorrow.

Observers here believe that President Ershad's move to precipitate the parliamentary polls was taken to defuse the tensions and take the wind out of the opposition sails.

But President Ershad, in his speech, has not changed his position with regard to the upazila (sub-district) polls set for March 24, an issue over which the opposition alliances have staked their strength and maybe their future.

The two opposition alliances have consistently demanded that the local bodies poll be held after the parliamentary elections and called for a general strike to force the government to put off the controversial upazila polls.

President Ershad in his speech today also echoed his favourite theme about the role of the armed forces in the country's politico-economic administration.

"We have to build a politico-democratic system where the armed forces, united with other sections of the people, will be able to have a direct role and contribution in building the country and the nation," he said.

Press Note Warns of Strong Steps To Curb Strike

BK290551 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Strong and determined steps will be taken for the safety of the peace-loving citizens and for gradual restoration of democracy in the country. This was stated in a press note issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs in Dhaka yesterday. It said that political parties have announced a program to observe coun trywide hartal [strike] tommorrow. They have been inciting the students (?as well as) members of the public to participate in the hartal, closing educational institutions, disrupting normal communication, and stopping production in the mills and the factories.

The press note said the government reminded all concerned that no group of (?public) has any right to take the law in their own hands in the name of hartal and create a situation jeopardizing public order and tranquillity. The press note said the government had appealed to the good (?sense) of all concerned and made it clear that no acts of lawlessness will be tolerated.

AFP: 2 Students Killed During 28 February Procession

BK281724 Hong Kong AFP in English 1717 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 28 (AFP) — Two students were killed and several others including some police were injured when a police van ran over a students' procession near the central bus terminal here this afternoon, a government announcement said.

However, the Central Students' Action Committee, which organized the procession, claimed that at least four students were killed in the incident, whose bodies, they said, were taken away by the police.

The procession was held to mobilise support for the general strike on March first called by the two major opposition alliances demanding the government to postpone the upazila (sub-district) elections scheduled for March 24.

Students also claimed that several students had been detained by the police following a violence that broke out on the spot. Government announcement issued about four hours after the incident said it "deeply regrets the unfortunate incident" and that the incident was "purely accidental" as it had occurred when the driver lost control of the police van in the face of heavy brick batting from the processionists.

Mourning March Held

BK291059 Hong Kong AFP in English 1052 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 29 (AFP) — Several thousand students marched in silent procession in the Dhaka streets today mourning

the death of at least two students killed when a police van ran over their procession late yesterday.

The procession yesterday was staged by the Central Students' Action Committee to mobilise support for a general strike called by the two opposition alliances — the 15-party and 7-party alliances. The general strike called for tomorrow by the two alliances is aimed at forcing the military government of president Hussain Mohammad Ershad to postpone the upazila (sub-district) elections set for March 24 and accept the opposition five-point demand for restoration of democracy.

The Students' Action Committee says that at least four students were killed under the wheels of the police van while several were injured. Several students were detained by the police. A government announcement which described the incident as "accidental" put the death figure at two.

The situation in the campus became tense after the incident and the Students' Action Committee today launched into vociferous protests at a condolence meeting at the Dhaka University campus and staged their silent mourning procession.

Meanwhile, President Ershad has announced that he will address the nation later today. Observers believe he will reschedule the elections hastening the presidential and parliamentary polls — set for May and November — in a bid to defuse tensions.

KHALEEJ TIMES on Filing of Nomination Papers

GF261526 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 26 Feb 84 p 20

[By correspondent]

[Excerpt] Dhaka — More than 2,000 candidates filed nomination papers yesterday for Bangladesh's 460 sub-district councils amid clashes between rival groups and police at election centres in Dhaka, Chittagong, Kushtia and Sylhet districts.

As leaders of the 15-party alliance, seven-party combine and the Central Students Action Committee urged the people to boycott the sub-disctict elections scheduled for March 24, candidates filed nomination papers with police protection.

While known political personalities belonging to the two alliances did not file papers, most of the candidates who entered the fray were from the government-backed Janadal Party and other groups supporting the chief martial law administrator, Lt. General H.M. Ershad.

A number of candidates from the Awami League, Bangladesh Nationalist Party — the two main constituents of alliances, and Jamaat-i-Islami filed nomination papers violating the decisions of high commands of their respective parties.

The Central Election Commission said its district branches received 2,139 nomination papers — less than half than expected. A commission official admitted that there were no candidates from at least a dozen subdistricts. These include Sylhet, Habibganj, Kulaura, Banianchang, Sharishabari, Tarash, Gangni and Jhorachari.

Candidates filed papers in a wave of demonstrations at different centres. The trouble started after supporters of two opposition alliances forward picket lines to prevent the candidates from filing papers. The crowds, protesting against the next month election plan, reacted violently when the police tried to disperse them.

The worst incidents occurred in Sylhet where demonstrators set two offices on fire and burnt office records. They also ransacked the deputy commissioner's office and pelted stones at the high court building. Two aspirants who turned up to file nomination papers were severely beaten up by students.

Police resorted to lathi-charges and fired at least 20 rounds of teargas to break up the violent mobs. At least 100 people, including policemen and fire brigade workers, were injured. Forty-five people had been arrested. According to a news agency, police fired about 55 teargas shells into crowds and over 550 people were hurt, including 45 policemen, in repeated clashes between armed police and stone-throwing crowds in Sylhet.

In Dhaka, police used mild lathi-charges to disperse workers of the Central Students Action Committee who gathered at the lower court building and raised slogans against voting in the March elections. Thirteen fasting workers of the Jatiya Ganatantrik Party were held in the morning and three others indentified as students were taken into custody from the district court premises when small groups of people were demonstrating against submission of nomination papers. After the arrest of Ganatantrik Party workers, an angry mob set on fire a government vehicle. The students action committee also took out a procession.

Meanwhile, Dhaka returned to normal yesterday after sporadic clashes on Friday. The police commissioner's office reported the arrest of 56 people, including 12 members of a militant political group who went on a protest hunger strike.

Abdul Quddus, a candidate from Paba sub-district in Rajshahi was admitted to hospital after being beaten up by opponents. Aminul Islam of Janadal from Avaynagar, Jessore, jumped into a river to save himself after he had been attacked by the alliance workers.

Ershad Receives Indonesian General

BK270715 Dkaha BSS in English 0655 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 27 BSS — The visiting commander in chief of Indonesian Armed Forces, General L.B. Murdani, today paid a courtesy call to the president and commander in chief of Bangladesh Armed Forces, Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad, at the Presidential Palace.

Gen. Murdani, who is leading a good-will delegation, arrived here yesterday on a three-day visit to Bangladesh.

The general is the first Indonesian Armed Forces chief to visit this country. He will lay a floral wreath at the Soldiers Memorial before scheduled departure tomorrow.

Sultan Mahmud Returns From Brunei
BK270625 Dhaka BSS in English 0659 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 27 BSS — Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator and Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud returned here last night after attending the celebrations in Bandar Seri Begawan marking the sultanate's resumption of international responsibilities as a sovereign and independent state.

Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud, who led a four-member Bangladesh delegation to the celebration, during a meeting in Brunei's capital with local business community has called for establishing direct contact with their Bangladesh counterpart to forge closer trade and economic ties.

The Bangladesh minister, besides calling on Sultan Sir Muda Hasanal Bolkiah, had a meeting with Brunei Armed Forces Chief Colonel Mohamad bin Hajj Daud.

Pakistani Exercises, Airspace Violations Noted

BK281307 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The minister of state for defense, Mr Singh Deo, told the Rajya Sabha that all developments having a bearing on the country's security are kept under watch, and necessary measures are taken to safeguard it at all times.

In reply to questions, he said there have been a few cases of violation of our airspace by Pakistani civilian aircraft in the recent past. He said the government is aware that Pakistani armed forces recently carried out their joint winter exercises close to the border. The minister said there had been some incidents of exchange of fire between Pakistani and the Indian troops across the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir last January.

Pakistan's Niak To Meet With Ministry Officials

BK290309 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] The Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr Niaz A. Naik, who is now attending the conference on South Asian cooperation in New Delhi, has said he would meet with senior officials of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs there.

During their talks, Pakistan's offer of a no-war pact and the Indian proposal for a treaty of friendship and cooperation would be discussed, he added.

Delhi Reports USSR's Ustinov To Visit 5 March

BK290258 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] The Soviet defense minister, Marshal Ustinov, will pay a 6-day official visit to the country from the 5th of next month.

During his stay in the country, he will hold talks with the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, the defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, and other Indian leaders.

Gandhi Addresses Parliament on Punjab Situation

BK281600 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The prime minister has appealed to all political parties to rise above narrow political considerations to face the grave situation confronting the country.

Mrs Gandhi made this appeal while intervening in the debate on the adjournment motion in the Lok Sabha and the discussion that followed in the Rajya Sabha on the home minister's statement on the situation in Punjab and Haryana. She said the evil of communalism is the biggest divisive factor in our country. If people are divided we cannot guard our freedom. This may give opportunity for outside interference. There are people who do not want this region to be strong.

Mrs Gandhi said no matter what our differences are, we have to see on what items we can get together. Unless we combine to root out communalism, the country will not be able to progress in any direction and Parliament will not be doing its duty.

Speaking about the Akali demands and subsequent developments, the prime minister said we need to take this problem above party politics. Unfortunately, politics has come into it. Referring to some opposition speeches, she said she is bothered that at a time of crisis, they are more concerned with blaming than with finding a way out. Her quarrel was not with any political party, not even with the Akali Dal. She reminded the members that India had fought imperialism and not the British. Today, our fight is with extremism, sectarianism and chauvinism. It does not matter who is the guilty person. If such a person is in her own party, he will be punished.

Mrs Gandhi denied that the government was in any way responsible for delaying a solution to the problem posed by the Akali demands. It had done its best to resolve the issues in an amicable and constructive spirit. She had told the Akalis very clearly about what the government could agree to. She had never gone back on it. At her meetings with the Akali representatives long before the tripartite talks, she had made her stand clear regarding the religious demands. When she thought the question had been disposed of, they said the main issue related to river waters and territory. Up to that time, they had not mentioned it.

The situation kept on changing continuously. The prime minister expressed the view that there were certain pressures being exercised on the moderates among the Akalis by those with extermist views. She said that some people in the opposition have been demanding that police enter the Gurdwaras [sikh temples]. While she agreed that no place should become a sanctuary for criminals or for stockpiling of arms, we have to keep in view the repercussions. We have to consider whether any action will not defeat the very objective that we have in mind.

The prime minister said she joins in the condemnation of the killings that have taken place in Punjab and Haryana. It is a matter of shame that any group of people should get into a frenzy. There is no place for retaliatory violence, and the government seeks the cooperation of all the parties in preventing such things. She again expressed the government's sympathies with the families of those who have been killed, and with the people who have suffered. Regardless of the religion anyone professes, he must show respect for the beliefs of others. We must strengthen the spirit of secularism.

In the Rajya Sabha, Mrs Gandhi said that the Anandpur Saheb resolution [adopted by Akalis in 1973 on their demands] contains some elements which go against the very unity of the country. No government can accept that. Referring to the Akali objection to some sections of Article 25 [putting sikhs under hindu religion], the prime minister said this has suddenly become a major issue. She pointed out that this was included in the Constitution on the specific request from Master Tara Singh, who wanted the backward sections of the Sikh community to get the same benefits as their Hindu counterparts.

Mrs Gandhi said we have to look to the future of India for

hundreds of years. We should not do anything that might endanger the future generations, she added.

Lok Sabha Rejects Motion on Punjab, Haryana

BK290315 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] The Lok Sabha yesterday rejected by voice vote the adjournment motion on the situation in Punjab and Haryana.

Intervening in the 6-hour-long debate, the home minister, P.C. Sethi, reiterated the government's determination to put down violence and terrorism at any cost. He said steps have been taken to streamline the law and order machinery in Punjab. He assured the house that terrorism and violence will not have a premium in resolving disputes. He regretted that deliberate attempts are being made to create bitterness and distrust between Hindus and Sikhs.

Referring to the disrespect shown to the Constitution by the Akalis, he said this has shocked the entire nation.

Reportage on Punjab Situation 28-29 Feb

Arrests for Burning Constitution

BK281621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] In Punjab, 57 Akali Dal workers are reported to have been arrested today for showing disrespect to the Constitution at the district headquarters. Seven persons were arrested at Gurdaspur and five each at Amritsar, Ludhiana, Sangrur, Faridkot, Bhatinda, Ferozepore, Kapurthala, Hoshiarpur and Patiala.

At Ropar, the Akali workers were stopped from taking out a procession from a gurdwara. A little later, five of them came out and were arrested under the Prevention of Insult to National Honor Act. Jullundur was the only district headquarters where no arrest was made.

Meanwhile, no untoward incident has been reported from the state. In Amritsar, banks, commercial establishments, schools, colleges and other educational institutions started their normal work day today for the first time since the imposition of curfew on the 14th of this month. However, night curfew will remain in force from 2100 to 0600.

Situation Improving

BK290338 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] In Punjab, the situation has started improving. No untoward incident has been reported since yesterday.

The curfew in all the six towns, where it was imposed some days back, has been curtailed to night hours only. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that this is also being done as a precautionary measure only. All India radio correspondents report from the towns, where night curfew is imposed, that all shops, business establishments, educational institutions and offices functioned as normal. Traffic and people moved about freely during the daytime.

In Chandigarh, a meeting of the Congress-I members of Parliament, members of the legislative assembly, executive members and district presidents of the party was held yesterday to discuss the situation in Punjab. The meeting strongly condemned the antinational acts of the Akalis of showing disrespect to the Constitution, and also senseless killings of innocent people in Punjab and Haryana. The meeting called upon the congressmen and the people of the state to meet this challenge firmly and expose the nefarious designs of antinational and communal forces.

The executive of the Punjab [wing of] the Communist Party of India, which met in Ludhiana, has also condemned the communal violence and killings in both Punjab and Haryana, and complimented the common people who have come forward to curb terrorism.

New Budget Presented to Parliament 29 Feb

BK291426 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1305 GMT 29 Feb 84

["Special budget bulletin"]

[Excerpts] Substantial income tax relief for the fixed income groups, concessions of excise duty for cheaper variety of cloth and exemption of excise duty on certain mass consumption items are the highlights of the central budget for the coming year presented to the parliament this evening by the finance minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee.

Total exemption of excise duty on Khandsari sugar, abolition of excise duty on electricity, incentives to tea growers, relief to paper and chinaware and porcelain industries and raising the aggregate exemption ceiling of wealth tax are some of the salient features of the budget proposals. The tax measures proposed by the finance minister are estimated to yield net additional revenue of about 273 crore rupees to the center. A deficit of 1,762 crore rupees has been left uncovered.

In his proposals, Mr Mukherjee has revised substantially the entire rate structure relating to personal taxation. The present rate of income tax in the first slab of taxable income up to 20,000 rupees will be reduced from 25 percent to 20 percent. Relief has also been allowed at all income levels above 20,000 rupees also. In the income slab above 25,000 rupees and 30,000 rupees, the income tax rate will be 30 percent as against 35 percent at present. Between 50,001 to 60,000 the rate will be 45 percent. Between 70,001 to 80,000 it will be 50 percent; and the maximum marginal rate on income above 100,000 rupees will be reduced to 55 percent from the existing 60 percent. For taxpayers with an income of 20,000 rupees the relief will be amounting to 281 rupees. For the income level of 30,000 rupees the relief will be 844 rupees. To plug tax evasion compulsory audit of accounts has been proposed in cases where the gross receipts from the profession exceed 10 lakh rupees. All loans or deposits of 10,000 rupees

or more are to be transacted by crossed checks or bank drafts. The tax rate for the corporate sectors are not being changed, but the companies will have the option to make the deposits of the entire surcharge with the Industrial Development Bank of India.

Announcing concessions in respect of wealth tax, the finance minister proposed to increase the monetary ceiling of exemption in respect to one house from the present level of 1 lakh to 2 lakhs. Together with separate exemption now available for units in the Unit Trust of India and other deposit schemes, the aggregate exemption will come to 3 lakhs.

In the field of indirect taxes, Mr Mukherjee proposes to continue the auxillary duty of customs and raise the present effective rate by 5 percent. Fertilizers, bulk petroleum products — such as kerosene and high speed diesel oil — and newsprints are exempted from the proposed increase. The present customs duty on crude petroleum fixed in 1973 will be raised from 9 rupees 50 paise to 100 rupees [figures as heard] per metric ton. The finance minister said this duty increase will be absorbed by the oil companies and the consumers will not be affected. The basic customs duty on different items of iron and steel will be raised between 5 to 10 percent. The import duty on petroleum jelly, liquid paraffin, zip fasteners and magnetic tape will go up. To boost exports, the finance minister announced certain measures to give relief to gem and jewelery processors. Customs duty on machines used in packaging of food articles will be reduced 40 percent ad valorem.

The budgetary deficit at the existing rate of taxation would be 2,045 crore rupees. The tax measures proposed by the minister totalled together with relief and concessions are estimated to yield a net additional revenue of 272 crore and 88 lakh rupees to the center. This leaves an uncovered deficit of 1,762 crore rupees which, the finance minister feels, is appropriate to the circumstances of the country.

To mobilize resources for public investments, the finance minister announced a long term deposit scheme called the National Deposit Scheme. Under this investors can purchase certificates of deposits with the maturity period of 4 years. The investor will have the options to encash the deposits any time after 1 year. The interest rate will be 10.5 percent if they are held for 4 years. The interest on this deposit will be eligible for tax exemption up to a full limit of 10,000 rupees. Mr Mukherjee proposes to raise 500 crore rupees under the scheme.

For the current year there will be a budgetary deficit of 1,695 crore rupees as against the budget estimates of 1,586 crore rupees. For the coming year the plan outlay of the center and states together will be 30,132 crore rupees. The central plan alone will involve investment of more than 17,300 crore rupees. This represents a 25 percent increase over the plan outlay of the outgoing year.

Pointing out the government efforts to benefit the weaker sections of the society, particularly in rural areas, the finance minister indicated that 932 crore rupees has been allocated in 1984-85 for various programs of rural development. This is nearly double the amount provided during the current year. The number of beneficiaries under the integrated rural development program will be over 30 lakhs. Fiftyfive crore man-days of work will be created in the rural areas in the coming year. An allocation of 25 crore rupees has been made for the program fund providing self-employment opportunities to the educated unemployed. More than 240 crore rupees has been earmarked for the accelerated rural water supply program. The states on their part will provide additional 364 crore rupees for this purpose. This will help in providing drinking water facilities to over 50,000 villages. The total allocation for the 20-point program in the central plan will be 4,038 crore rupees. This is about 47 percent over the current year provision. In fact, 40 percent of the total plan outlay of the center, states and union territories will be devoted for the 20-point program.

For agriculture, there will be an outlay of 758 crore rupees as against 556 crores in the current financial year. Various power projects will entail an investment of 1,760 crore rupees. For petroleum, an outlay of more than 3,200 crore reupees has been provided. Higher allocations have been provided for steel, nonferrous metals, paper, cement, and several other sectors which are important for the country's industrial development.

For defense, a provision of 6,800 crore rupees has been made.

A sum of 300 crore rupees has been provided for payment of pensionary relief and additional installments of dearness allowance to central government employees.

Pointing out the continued improvement in the trade gap situation, the finance minister noted that there has been an increase in foreign exchange reserves by 662 crore rupees. He said that belying the prophecies of doom by many a self-styled Cassandra, the economy has emerged stronger as a result of the adjustment efforts mounted by the government.

Referring to India's decision not to avail the balance of 1.1 billion SDR's from the International Monetary Fund, Mr Mukherjee said that none of the dire consequences that the government was worried about has occurred. India entered into the loan arrangement with the IMF with its eyes open and it has come out of it with its head high. Mr Mukherjee said there is no room for complacency and it is necessary to work even harder to improve the economy.

Later the finance bill was introduced.

Venkataraman on Growing Requirements of Defense

BK251000 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] The defense minister has urged workers in ordnance factories and other defense units to strive for higher productivity. This, he said, is necessary in view of the growing requirements of the country's defense forces, particularly in the context of the changing military balance around India.

Mr Venkataraman was inaugurating the silver jubilee celebrations of the gun and shells factory karamchari [employees] union at Kashipur in north Calcutta today.

TIMES OF INDIA on Pakistan's 'Islamic Bomb'

BK271112 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 20 Feb 84 p 8

[Editorial: "Pakistan and the Bomb"]

[Text] Despite Islamabad's protestations to the contrary, even its friends abroad have known it for some years that it is engaged in a frantic clandestine effort to build the nuclear bomb. The evidence on this score has been too overwhelming to be dismissed, as Pakistani authorities have tried to do, as "Zionist propaganda." Surely, Mr, Bhutto, who first disclosed in his last testament the elaborate Pakistani plan, fathered by himself, to go in for the "Islamic" bomb, could not be called a Zionist by any stretch of imagination. In any case, by the beginning of this decade it had been firmly established that Pakistan had opted for not one but two routes to the bomb — through uranium enrichment at the Kahuta plant and through plutonium to be obtained by reprocessing the spent fuel of the Kanupp nuclear power reactor. Such scepticism on this score as has since been expressed, including by some individuals in this country, has related largely to the capacity of Pakistani scientists and engineers to make full and quick use of the vast equipment and material obtained by them from the "grey international nuclear market" through trickery and subterfuge, and not to Pakistani ambitions or intentions.

Now the leading Pakistani nuclear scientist, Mr. Abdul Qadir Khan, himself, has dropped what can only be called a bombshell. He has confirmed that Pakistan has developed, in a very short time, the nuclear enrichment capability that West European countries took 20 years to master. What he has said (including his claim that in uranium enrichment Pakistan is far ahead of India) is neither new nor surprising. What is both surprising and significant, however, is that he, of all Pakistanis, should have spoken up on his country's nculear capability. For, it was Mr. Khan who stole from the Almelo enrichment plant in Holland the designs on which the Kahuta plant near Islamabad is based; he has been convicted and sentenced, in absentia, by a Dutch court on the charge of confidential and secret documents. No wonder, the Pakistanis proudly call him "our Oppenheimer" and have even renamed the Kahuta enrichment plant after him. Understandably, Mr. Khan has generally maintained a very low profile and a total silence about his work. Inquisitive journalists and even diplomats trying to seek out this elusive character have in fact been beaten up by goons apparently belonging to the security squad surrounding him.

Evidently, such a man could not have given a revealing interview to *NAWA-E WAQT*, a Lahore newspaper known to be close to the military regime, in a fit of absentmindedness, especially when he went so far as to declare that if given the "green signal" by the government to make the bomb, the Pakistani nuclear scientists would not disappoint it or the country. Nor has the impact of Mr. Khan's interview been dissipated by the subsequent statement by General Ziaul Haq who has once again made a ritual disavowal of any intention on Islamabad's part to go in for nuclear weapons. For one thing, Gen. Zia waited full five days after the publication of Mr. Khan's interview to issue his so-called denial. For another, at no stage did the Pakistan President claim that the remarks attributed to the scientist had not been made. Mr. Khan himself has only said that some of his remarks have been "deliberately misinterpreted." He has not complained of misquotation or "quotation out of context."

It will be a mistake to assume that Dr. Khan has been guilty of misguided enthusiasm or *NAWA-E WAQT* of misunderstanding him. Such things can and do happen in this cousntry, but not in Pakistan under military rule. In all probability the whole exercise has been meticulously planned and well orchestrated. For it is of a piece with the manner in which General Zia has in the past manipulated opinion at home and abroad on such delicate and embarrassing issues as the execution of Mr. Bhutto, repeated postponement of elections and suppression of human rights. The plan might well be to get a decision announced first and then denied in a way that the situation is further confused, and finally confront the world with a fait accompli. In the present case, it can be argued, however, that since the Pakistanis are unlikely to conduct a nuclear test until after all the F-16s and other military supplies have been received from the U.S., it was pethaps unnecessary for Mr. Khan to draw attention to Pakistan's ongoing nuclear programme. But, as some observers have pointed out, he might be addressing himself to the Arab and other Muslim countries dismayed by the grim goings-on in Lebanon and telling them that they can look forward with hope to Pakistan's "Islamic" bomb.

Muslim Leader Comments on Pakistan Trip

BK261048 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] The president of the Indian Union Muslim League, Mr Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait, who recently made a good-will mission to Pakistan, has said that he saw no (?air) of hostility toward India, but a positive desire on the part of Government and the people of Pakistan to build good-neighborly relations between the two countries.

Speaking to ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in New Delhi, he said his delegation met a cross section of the people and found a large fund of good will for India at all levels. Answering a question, he said he saw no war clouds there, as certain Indian politicians try to make people believe. He said they were impressed by the extent of prosperity of the people of Pakistan and by the measures taken by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq's government toward creating a true Islamic society, which was the real objective of the Pakistan movement.

Zia Stresses Importance of Islam to Elections

BK291107 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has reaffirmed his determination to hold general elections in the country according to his August 12 political program and said these would be held purely on Islamic principles.

Addressing a local bodies convention in Sibi today, he said elections on party basis or nonparty basis and presidential or parliamentary forms of government were irrelevant to Pakistan. What was relevant was that elections and the system of government should be fully reflective of Islamic traditions and practices. He declared amidst cheers that Islam desired active participation of the people and their association with the affairs of the state through their representatives. The president asked the councillors that as elected representatives of the people they should educate the masses and tell them to (?elect) for the national and provincial assemblies such people who believe in the principles of Islam, spelled out by him at the convention. He said he would like to launch this movement from Baluchistan, whose people were as God-fearing and patriotic as those of the other areas of the country.

The president said the government had launched a well-conceived development program in Baluchistan and its success to a large extent depended upon the cooperation of the local councillors. They were well-suited to know the local needs and priorities. In this connection, he added, 300 million rupees have been given to the local bodies of the province to enable them to begin their development schemes of immediate importance.

DAWN: MRD Not To Hold Talks With Government

GF281838 Karachi DAWN in English 23 Feb 84 p 10

[Text] Lahore, Feb 22 — The MRD has taken strong exception to "unauthorised" statements by some of its key leaders and the matter will figure prominently in its Central Committee deliberations on Thursday.

This was disclosed at a press conference here on Wednesday by Maulana Syed Amir Husain Gilani, the Punjab convener of the 10-party alliance. He said that there was all likelihood that the Central Committee would put a ban on press statements. Issuing statements, he said, was a violation of an earlier decision. According to the Maulana, political parties in the MRD would again be warned against "this undesirable" practice and asked to desist from issuing statements to the press without prior approval of the MRD.

The maulana reiterated that the MRD would not enter into any dialogue with the regime. He said that none of the parties in the alliance had so far negotiated with the government, adding that in case any party did so, it would have forfeited its right to remain in the MRD.

Meanwhile, a number of important political leaders have already arrived here to take part in the meeting which is being given great importance by political observers here. Makhdoom Amin Fahim, a leader of the defunct PPP [Pakistan People's Party], will apprise the meeting of his recent talks with Prof. Ghafoor Ahmad of the defunct Jamaat-i Islami, and the Jamaat's desire for a "broad-base." The convener of the Central Committee, Maulana Mohammad Shah Amroti, is expected to make public on Friday the decisions taken by the Central Committee.

Maulana Amir Husain Gilani has, however, described as out-of-season the suggestion made by Qazi Husain Ahmad, general-secretary of the defunct Jamaat-i-Islami, that a new organised effort should be made for the enforcement of the Islamic order in the country. He told newsmen that the 1973 constitution fully guaranteed that all laws would be brought in conformity with Islamic injunctions. That is why the MRD was striving for the restoration of the 1973 documents. He said that there were no two opinions about the enforcement of Islamic principles in Pakistan but there was no room for another organisation since the MRD was fighting for the achievement of similar ends. He suggested that if the Jamaat was sincere in its desire for the introduction of an Islamic order in the country, it must join the MRD in its struggle for the realisation of its four-point charter of demands.

Afghan Mujahidin Arrested Near Torkham

GF281846 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 17 Feb 84 p 1

[By Nusrat Javeed]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 16 — Around two dozen Afghan Mujahidin have been arrested by the Pakistan authorities from the tribal area at the Pak-Afghan border near Torkham. It was reliably learnt here today.

It may be recalled here that in December last, more than 200 Afghan Mujahidin attacked an Afghan checkpost near Torkham and captured it after severe fighting. The attack was led by the Gilani group of Mujahidin which is loyal to the ex-king of Afghanistan.

Their attack on the checkpost disrupted the flow of traffic between Pakistan and Afghanistan and traders on both sides of the border were disturbed over their actions. There were some reports which claimed that the traders doing business in the area strongly protested against their activities on the historical trade route.

Sources in Islamabad believed that these arrests were related to that event and were aimed at restoring normal trade between the two countries.

Meanwhile, another report has claimed that the U.S. Government had detained 50 Afghan nationals and that arrangements were now being made to send them back to Pakistan.

'Alleged Terrorist' Arrested on Arms Possession
GF281626 Lahore JANG in Urdu 15 Feb 84 p 1

[By JANG correspondent]

[Text] Quetta — The police in Chaman arrested alleged terrorist Agha Gul and seized two antitank rockets, several rocket shells, a Russian-made sten gun with 150 rounds, a pistol, and 60 rounds of ammunition in his possession. According to a police spokesman, the accused Agha Gul was riding a rickshaw, traveling the Bogra road to the city of Quetta, when he was arrested. The man is at present under interrogation. The police believe that the accused is either connected with some terrorist group or he is involved in gun running. The accused is a resident of Qandahar and has been charged under Martial Law Regulation 8 and Arms Act Clause 113 for possessing illegal arms. He will soon be moved to Quetta for further interrogation.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on U.S. Presence in Gulf

GF290547 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0445 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] According to a report by our correspondent, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, referring to the illegal and aggressive presence of a U.S. naval flotilla in the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman region, said:

The U.S. Government which was the main instigator of the attack by the regime ruling Iraq against the Islamic Republic of Iran has come to realize the weakness of Iraqi forces opposing the capable Iranian forces. Thus, it has intensified the illegitimate presence of its Navy in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman using various excuses in order to threaten and put pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran and also to bare its claws and teeth.

The presence of the U.S. Navy in these waters thousands of kilometers from the United States is simply an act of aggression and blackmail against the countries of the region and is support for the aggressive and defeated regime of Iraq. Such aggression has reached a stage where the aggressive U.S. Government has allowed itself, contrary to international conventions, to announce special conditions and rights for its naval units in the region.

In a special communique addressed to all the countries of the region, it has officially warned that any aircraft flying in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman region below 2,000 feet will not be allowed to fly anywhere within a 5-mile radius of the naval flotilla unless they contact them first. Such a request is not only fundamentally against all international laws, such as the Chicago convention dealing with internationalflights or other conventions dealing with the freedom to overfly open seas, but it can, in fact, be considered a form of blackmail and aggression against the sovereignty of the security cordon of the countries in the region.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, considering its responsibility to protect its sea and air borders, will under no circumstances accept this and strongly condemns it. In addition, the said communique is, in fact, a claim of sovereignty over an unspecified area of international waters in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman. According to international conventions, this is baseless, worthless, and without any legal grounds. Using such threats,the United States has, in fact, endangered sea and air transport in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman and has openly ignored internationally-approved rights.

The spokesman for our Foreign Ministry added: The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran informs all respective organizations such as ICO, IATA, IMO, the United Nations,and the nonaligned conference of the illegality of U.S. actions and notes that responsibility for any U.S. action in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman which leads to an incident will be that of the aggressive U.S. Government and can be considered a serious threat against the current state of affairs in the Hormuz Strait and contrary to the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to maintain safe and free passage in this vital sea lane.

Ayatollah Khomeyni 28 February Address

LD281743 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Speech by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni at meeting with employees and department heads of Voice and Vision of Islamic Republic of Iran in Jamaran Mosque on morning of 28 February; duration of speech 30 minutes — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I would like to thank the dear friends who are present at this meeting and hope that they all succeed in acting in a manner that pleases God.

The Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially the radio, has a wide coverage abroad. Therefore, it has the power to misguide millions of people with the slightest deviation. It can misinform millions of people with a small mistake. If, God willing, it works 100 percent for Islam and to guide people, it can guide hundreds of millions of people. Therefore, its importance should not be underestimated.

Compare the U.S. position now with what it was before; compare England's position now with what it was before; and do the same with other powers. Before, the United States imagined that it was the master of Iran and other Islamic countries and was able to correct everything with one command. The situation was such that if a king or president of an Islamic country wanted to go to America, he had to work hard to get permission to go. Once there, he had to work hard to be granted an audience with the President. The situation was such that things could be put right with one command. Today, America's position is such that in Lebanon, although most of it is in U.S. hands — the Lebanese president supports the United States and most fronts in Lebanon support it — a limited number of Muslims there forced it to escape from Lebanon. The United States describes this as redeployment. This is not redeployment — it is escape. It escaped and then, once outside the country, shelled the people. This comes from extreme impotence — to escape from a country and then hit the people with rockets. This is the United States' extreme impotence. But although it realizes this, it does not heed this lesson.

The United States is saying the same things as before. The U.S. President said: We will not allow the Strait of Hormuz to be closed. He thinks that the situation is as it was before, when his permission was sought. Now the people of Lebanon did not allow you to stay there and the people of Iran did not permit you to stay here. It is up to the people of Iran to grant you permission. Their main mistake, if any, is that they do not realize what they are confronted with. When they were confronting governments, nations did not have anything to do with the situation. Then the governments carried on with their work and were subservient to them. Now the same situation prevails in many places — governments are servants and nations do not interfere. Where they are confronted by a nation, they will be defeated.

It would be a mistake to think that confronting nations is like confronting governments. It is either a mistake on their part or

they know but do not want to acknowledge that they do. Therefore, neither America nor the Soviet Union, nor any other power, can confront nations. They could do that with governments, as they did from the start, that is, they were ruling governments and through them they did whatever they wanted. But now things have changed; the world has awakened. All over the world — from Latin America to the Soviet Union to Central America — the world's oppressed have awakened and no longer accept from them what they did in the past. Today the powers should listen to the nations. They can no longer sit back and say we will allow this and not allow that. This giving permission is a thing of the past. You say that you would stage a military attack; well, you did and saw what happened. The Soviet Union has also staged, and is staging, a military invasion. You will see what will happen to that. Ahthough there is only one group fighting them in Afghanistan, they have been (?stumped).

A point I should mention here — there might not be time later — is the issue of the elections. As I have stressed repeatedly — and others have mentioned it, too — elections are not monopolised by any group, be it clergy, parties, groups, or others. Elections are for all the people. People hold their destiny in their own hands. Elections affect the future of the nation. I have heard that in universities some people have said that interfering [as heard] in elections is like interfering in politics: It is reserved for the clergy. Up to now, it was said that theologians should not interfere in politics, and now it is said that this is a right reserved for the theologians. They [as heard] were defeated, and now they say the reverse.

University staff and students should realize that, just as a theologian should have a hand in his destiny, a young student should do the same. There is no difference between university students, university staff, pupils, and others. They are all the same. If such comments are made in universities, it is a conspiracy to make you young people lose hope. You should be aware and realize that these people are trying to work through their conspiracies. Since they cannot act by military intervention, they are using foul play. At first, this foul play took the form of the comment that politics should be kept apart from religion, which caused a lot of damage and [words indistinct] to us, while they benefitted.

That rumor was defeated, and now they say that politics is for theologians alone. That is to say, only about 500 people should interfere in political matters and the rest of the population should keep away. That is to say, people should keep to themselves and have nothing to do with social affairs, and a few old and (?stale) men should interfere. This is worse than the previous conspiracy, since that one tried to put aside a number of theologians, causing a stratum of the society to be put aside. But this recent comment is trying to put the entire nation aside. Not that this time they are trying to put the theologians in the arena, no, they are trying to annihilate the theologians using the hands of this nation.

Propaganda is capable of doing anything in the world today. You see that Saddam is so desperate but his propaganda shows the reverse. So does the propaganda launched by others. That poor man has come down in the world so much that he is going around borrowing money and begging others to come and restore the peace. It is all a lie. He is trying to deceive everyone. He does not want peace. The mass media give Iraq's reports extensive coverage but just mention ours. They say that the situation is becoming tense and America might interfere. This is all nonsense. Saddam is going to fall and neither America nor any other power can keep him in office. [shouts of "God is great, Khomeyni is the leader, Death to America, Death to opposers of clerical rule, Death to the USSR, Death to the hypocrites and Saddam, and Death to Israel"]

I hope that the two cancerous tumors there and here, namely, Israel there and the Ba'th Party here, will be uprooted. God willing, the nation of Iraq will take their destiny in their own hands. I hope that the Iranian nation will continue to advance with strength. Peace be with you all.

IRNA Report

GF281732 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb 28, IRNA — Saddam is on his way out and no one can keep him, not the United States or any other (state), ImamKhomeyni said today.

The leader of the Islamic revolution said in a meeting here with the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) that Saddam was knocking on every door to save himself from the Islamic combatants of Iran and was getting the support of propaganda networks world-wide.

On the recent statement by the U.S. that it will not allow the Islamic Republic to close the Strait of Hormuz, the imam said the U.S. President thinks that everything is the same as in the past, when their permission (for another country to do something) had an impact... no superpower could confront Iran which is a nation that has sacrificed everything for the cause of Islam and that is in solidarity with the (Iranian) Government.

IRNA Cites Lloyds on Khark Situation

GF281722 Tehran IRNA in English 1657 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran Feb. 28 IRNA — Following the empty claims forwarded by the desperate Iraqi regime alleging several strikes against oil tankers at Iran's Khark oil terminal and the Islamic Republic's categorical denial of these claims today, Lloyds shipping intelligence has declared that it has no information on any attacks on the islands oil terminal.

A spokesman for the War Information HQ of Iran today announced that the baselessness of Iraq's allegations in this regard should serve to convince the world mass media and public opinion that no credibility should be attached to these repeated lies by Baghdad's Zionist propaganda machinery.

It should be reiterated that Saddam has resorted to this ballyhoo on Khark Island and the Strait of Hormuz in order to cover up his successive defeats in the warfronts. Now with the exposure of this newest lie, the Iraqi regime will probably resort to new distortions on its imaginary victories in the warfronts.

Oil Minister Comments on OPEC Policy

LD282059 Tehran IRNA in English 2031 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb 28, IRNA — Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi said that Iran's policy in OPEC was to campaign against decrease in oil price. Gharazi interviewed by the Arabic language *AL-JIHAD*, organ of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) further added that in OPEC Iran followed the policy which safeguarded interests of the oil exporting countries.

He further told the magazine that Iran in OPEC endeavored to make the nations of member countries aware of the necessity of using oil as a means of attaining political and economic objectives.

Active presence of Iran in OPEC, in controlling production level within the organization. [as received] This measure, he added, was a way of countering plots of world oppressors such as urging adopting of measures to prolong the life-span of the oil reserves of the member countries.

A number of pro-western OPEC members such as Saudi Arabia, have been following a policy contrary to that of Iran. However, the future of the oil market would depend on political and military situation in the region and Saudis could no longer reverse the situation to the previous one, he noted.

The Islamic Republic of Iran valued its oil reserves and produced in amount suitable to meeting the needs of the people, the revolution and development projects. This is exactly the opposite of the policy under the former regime during which the oil reserves were plundered and were used for the interests of the west.

On the problems of the sale of natural gas to the Soviet Union, he said that although in international markets price of one million BTU of natural gas is now about six dollars, Soviets are not willing to pay more than 2.5 dollars for one million BTU. The Islamic Republic of Iran has taken significant steps for domestic use of natural gas and substituting it for other sources of energy. Therefore, at present, all the natural gas produced which amounts to about 25 million cubic meters a day, were used domestically.

On the reaction of Iran towards tricks of world imperialism in increasing insurance rate of oil tankers, he said that the insurance companies had gradually increased the rate from 0.25 percent to 7.5 percent. In order to encounter this, he added, Iran deposited 300 million dollars with a European bank and announced that it was willing to insure all tankers heading for Iranian ports with a rate of one percent. Consequently, the measure of the insurance companies against Iran was thwarted.

Envoys Carry Velayati Messages to Syria, UAE, Qatar

LD281206 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Sheykh ol-Eslam, political affairs under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, left for Syria today at the head of a delegation. He is bearing a message from our country's Foreign Minister Velayati to Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

During this trip, he will hold talks on issues relating to Lebanon, the war imposed by Iraq on Iran, and the expansion of relations between the two countries.

Heading a delegation, the political director general of the Arab, African, and Asian Countries Department of the Foreign Ministry left for the UAE and Qatar today. He is bearing written messages from Mr Velayati to the foreign ministers of the two countries. During this trip, he will hold talks with UAE and Qatari officials on political developments in the region and onmutual relations.

Also, the political director general of the Asia and Oceania Department of the Foreign Ministry left for Pakistan this afternoon. He is bearing a written message from Mr Velayati to his Pakistani counterpart. During this trip, he will hold talks with other officials of that country on the situation and developments in the region and on mutual relations.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,650

LD281744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Communiuqe No 1,650 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] At 1330 today, a few high-flying fighters of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran bravely attacked concentrations of Iraqi forces north of Al-Qurnah and after having bombed enemy armored and infantry forces they returned safely to base.

At 1050 and 1808 today, two violating enemy aircraft were shot down by fighter aircraft of the Air Force and the antiaircraft unit of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Khaybar operational zone.

Yesterday, exchange of fire continued between the powerful forces of Islam and the enemy in the northwestern, western, and southern fronts of the country, using artillery and heavy weapons. On each front, our forces defended their positions with vigilance and with fire superiority. By smashing enemy positions, fortifications, and supply centers and by sending patrol groups and setting up ambushes in sensitive places, they inflicted losses and casualties on the mercenaries of the Iraqi Ba'thists. They silenced the fire of enemy artillery and heavy weapons and, as much as possible, prevented enemy movements. On each front, they set fire to Iraqi positions and destroyed a number of their trenches and foxholes. In the Hajj 'Umran region, they killed 10 Saddamist mercenaries.

In the Arvand Rud operational sector, exchange of sporadic fire continued between our forces and the enemy. Losses inflicted on Iraqi forces as a result of the fire of the heroic personnel of the Gendarmerie included the destruction of one artillery piece, one 106-mm gun, and more than 10 trenches and foxholes. Also, by opening fire on a concentration of Saddamist mercenaries, they killed or wounded a number of enemy personnel.

During the past 24 hours, Basra, Khanaqin, and Mandali came under artillery fire from the fighters of Islam and losses were inflicted on enemy industrial and military installations.

Yesterday, Abadan came under sporadic fire from enemy heavy weapons, as the result of which four of our dear compatriots were wounded and 11 houses and shops and a mosque were damaged.

Iraq Attacks Cities, Casualties Reported

Town of Bakhtaran

LD281701 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] At 1735 today, two aircraft of the aggressive Iraqi Armed Forces attacked the heroic town of Bakhtaran. According to the reports received by 1900, as the result of this satanic attack, so far the pure corpses of 19 martyrs have been brought from the rubble.

According to the same report, as the result of this enemy attack against two parts of the city, so far more than 80 injured have been taken to hospitals. As the result of the attacks of enemy aircraft, 35 homes were completely destroyed and 50 other commercial and residential units were 50 percent damaged.

Attack on Khorramshahr

LD281731 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] According to an IRNA report, the defeated and dying army of infidel Saddam brought the resisting and martyr-nurturing city of Khorramshahr under light and heavy weapons fire during the past 24 hours. As a result, a number of reconstructed civilian units andvarious vehicles were damaged.

Dehloran City

LD282110 Tehran IRNA in English 2004 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Ilam, Feb 28, IRNA — Four Iraqi war planes bombarded the city of Dehloran, in Ilam Province, this morning. The attack damaged three sectors of the city where two civilians have been reportedly wounded so far.

Iranian cities have been subjected to countless Iraqi aerial and ground attacks including chemical weaponry bombardments, which have resulted in the martyrdom and wounding of hundreds of civilians over the past few days. The Iraqi civilian area attacks serve to reflect Iraqi troops impotence on the battle field against Iran's Islamic combatants.

Minister Restates Stand on War With Iraq

LD282041 Tehran IRNA in English 2010 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Khorramabad, Feb. 28, IRNA — The Iranian nation and the Islamic Republic officials have maintained a definite stance during the Iraqi imposed war against Iraqi regime which attacked the Islamic Republic on behalf of Zionism and world oppression, said Hojjat ol-Eslam Khatami.

The Ershad Eslami (Islamic) guidance minister who was talking in a press interview here further said that Islam and Muslims would emerge victorious in this fateful war over infidels.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khatami who headed a delegation to attend the funeral ceremony of martyrs of Iraqi missile attack upon the city on (Friday midnight, martyring some 80 civilians and wounding hundreds of others) in an address to the Lurestan people said that the enthusiasm he witnessed in the province was indicative of the people's morale and their consciousness of their duty. He stated that he considered himself duty-bound to convey their (the Lurestan people's) message to the Islamic Republic authorities and tell them that anything could be achieved with the help of the Iranian nation.

IRNA: Chemical Warfare Victims Recover

LD291116 Tehran IRNA in English 0933 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Ahvaz, Feb. 28, IRNA — A group of Islamic combatants who had suffered injuries due to exposure from chemical bombs dropped by Iraqi planes during the past few days have now recovered and been re-dispatched to the battlefronts.

Dr. Frutan, a physician who had treated the wounded of chemical bombs, further said that other combatants who had received severe injuries were still undergoing treatment and would be dispatched to their operation regions soon.

NVOI Condemns Execution of Tudeh Members

TA281536 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Unattributed commentary: "Woe, Should There Be Tomorrow After Today"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: The illogical and inhuman deeds of the Islamic Government and of this regime's executioners are reaching their climax. The Islamic Government — whose authorities' and executioners' hands are stained with the blood of thousands of Tudeh, Mojahed, Feda'i, and revolutionary Muslim strugglers — has once again shed the blood of a group of our nation's loyal children — human beings who placed their lofty efforts, conscience, and power at the service of the people to safeguard the gains of our nation's glorious revolution against the encroachments of a bunch of exploiters and satanic individuals with beards and beads, and against sources of imitation and jurisconsults who support them.

The objective is the execution of patriotic officers who did not want to accept the disgrace of treachery against the nation and revolution — who despite all dangers fought for the revolution, the people, freedom, independence, and social justice and who immortally sacrificed their dear lives on this path.

Everyone knows that these patriotic officers and so-called defendents were subjected to the most savage tortures for months. The

very famous and anonymous SAVAKists of the shah's despotic regime, hand in hand with a bunch of knife-wielders, hooligans, superstition-worshippers, and superficials inflicted — in accordance with the instructions of advisers of the CIA and the intelligence service — various modern and medieval tortures on these loyal children of the Iranian nation.

In its statement in connection with the trial of patriotic officers, the Iranian Tudeh Party correctly pointed out that the only unforgivable crime of the patriotic officers and members of the Iranian Tudeh Party — as they declared in the military court — was defense of the revolution and struggle for the liberation of the deprived masses. The people of Iran and the world know that what was brought to trial in the Islamic Republic of Iran were the social, economic, and political views and opinions of members of the Iranian Tudeh Party.

The execution of a group of patriotic officers is a stain of shame on the despotic and bloody rulers of the Islamic Republic. The people, patriotic officers, and progressive and revolutionary forces will never forgive this crime of the regime. Woe, should there be a tomorrow after today. A tomorrow that is not far away will certainly arrive.

Tudeh Party Issues Statement on Executions

TA282025 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text of statement by Tudeh Party Central Committee on execution of 10 Tudeh Party members]

[Text] Dear compatriots: We draw your attention to a statement issued by the Iranian Tudeh Party's Central Committee in connection with the execution of 10 patriotic officers, which has been handed to us:

Dear compatriots, by delivering 10 members of the Iranian Tudeh Party, including patriotic officers, to the firing squads, the Iranian Government's suppressive organs have committed dreadful treason. The trial which first culminated in prison sentences for 87 people for a period of more than 700 years, and then the confirmation and implementation of the death sentences of 10 members of the Iranian Tudeh Party, are in blatant contravention of both the country's judicial and legal principles and regulations and international laws and mores acceptable to everyone.

The noble individuals who were martyred with such cruelty, devoted their entire proud life in struggle for independence, freedom, and the salvation of the deprived masses from poverty and oppression. In the process of the illegal trial, all of them strongly denied the unfounded and baseless charges of espionage and plotting to overthrow the regime. They proudly declared that the only motive for their participation in the political struggle was defense of the revolution's popular targets.

As everyone acknowledges, these patriots who were delivered to the firing squads had a very effective share in defending the country's independence and in foiling the plots of the counterrevolution and agents of imperialism. Like other Iranian patriots, they considered an end to the destructive war and the achievement of an honorable peace — in order to save the lives of hundreds of thousands of Iranian youths and to prevent the destruction of towns and villages and the massacre of their innocent inhabitants — to be an urgent necessity. It is no accident that the execution of these patriots coincided with a new adventurism by those in the government who favor the war's prolongation and with the launching of new offensives.

By despatching patriots to the slaughterhouse, reactionary circles are striving to stifle, within society and the Armed Forces, the increasing and all-encompassing wave of opposition to the war's prolongation. Democratic and freedom-seeking forces in Iran and other parts of the world have realized that the patriots who were delivered to the firing squads or who were killed under inhuman torture — like scores of thousands of condemned political prisoners awaiting the issuance of tyrannical verdicts — are in general the victims of one of the greatest antihuman plots of the CIA in Iran.

Amid the most sensitive moments in the history of our tragedy-afflicted homeland, when society is confronting great social and economic problems and the country is facing the open threat of military aggression by U.S. imperialism, hostility toward the Iranian Tudeh Party — which is the most traditional and serious force defending the working people — and unprecedented escalation of the propaganda campaign against the Soviet Union — which is our neighbor and the strongest supporter of the world's progressive and transformation-seeking forces — can have no other meaning than to create favorable conditions for the activity of the counterrevolution and restoring the positions of imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism.

The Iranian Tudeh Party Central Committee strongly condemns the brutal act by the Iranian Government's suppressive circles and asks all the world's democratic and progressive forces to raise their voices of protest against crimes being committed in our homeland. The glorious memory of patriots who were martyred by agents of reaction will live forever in the hearts of the toiling masses and strugglers on the path of independence, freedom, and social justice.

[Signed] Central Committee of the Iranian Tudeh Party, 26 February 1984

Radio Iran Reports Radio, TV Workers' Sit-in

GF281600 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Nationalist elements report that 45 disgruntled workers in the production department of the radio and television organization of the Islamic Republic held a sit-in. The workers of this department, which is located on Arg Square, were protesting against the foolish policies of the regime for that organization. The report added that after the sit-in had gone on for several hours, a group of revolution guards arrived at Arg Square and loaded the protesting workers into two minibuses and carted them off to Evin Prison. The work of these workers was then assigned to some benighted revolution guards. The nationalist elements report that after the introduction of the revolution

guards into the department all production ceased and the regime was forced to release the arrested workers and reinstate them to their former positions.

An interesting report said today that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni received a group of radio and television workers of the Islamic Republic at Jamaran and reminded them of the importance of the radio and television organization of the Islamic Republic.

Khomeyni Receives Majlis Speaker 28 February

LD282104 Tehran IRNA in English 1954 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28, IRNA — The Majlis speaker and representative of Imam Khomeyni in the Supreme Defence Council, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, met with Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, here today. In this meeting Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani reported to the imam on situation of warfronts and the ongoing Khaybar offensive.

Late Report: Musavi Describes 29 Feb Cabinet Session

LD291311 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Excerpts] During its session this morning, chaired by Prime Minister Musavi, the Cabinet reviewed issues relating to the war and political developments in the region. After the session, the prime minister was interviewed by our correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Musavi, can you tell us what issues were discussed during today's Cabinet session and also the latest developments of the war imposed by Iraq on Iran?

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Naturally, today the most important issue for the Cabinet is the issue of the war. A report was submitted on the progress made by our combatants on the fronts, their activities, the great extent of their operations, the intensity of the battle, and (?other issues) relating to the war. The casualties suffered by the enemy were discussed and also the complex plans that our brothers have implemented in the region. The savage attack by Saddam on urban areas was discussed, last of which was Bakhtaran.

[Correspondent] What diplomatic or publicity measures will be taken in relation to international institutions about the Iraqi raids on certain areas and the use of chemical bombs?

[Musavi] The use of chemical bombs is banned by international regulations. Of course, when we decided to (?retaliate), we expected our enemy, and our enemies, to adopt every measure against our Islamic Revolution. All the crimes committed by Saddam's regime are not unexpected, because we expected the same from America and other superpowers, and nothing more. Following Iraq's recent defeats and the deep penetration of our forces into the southern parts of that country, Iraq resorted to chemical bombings in certain areas. Of course, we have taken measures regarding treatment for the injured. The Foreign Ministry has taken steps in this connection, so that the issue will be exposed worldwide. The most important issue is that the chemical bombings, American threats in the Strait of Hormuz, or the support given by all the world to Saddam cannot weaken our nation's resolve to continue the war until victory.

Today, we clearly see that this war is between parties, between all the pagans and Islam. All the powers are supporting Iraq in some form or other. Consider the American threats, Soviet missiles, French aid and advanced tanks and planes, and the chemical weapons from Britain. Our nation and combatants are, in fact, confronting the entire world of arrogance. So victory is by the same token very important. Despite all this material our combatants... [sentence as heard] We see that the AWACS are serving this war and Saddam. But despite this unholy alliance,our combatants heroically attack and achieve victories and shake the foundations of Saddam's regime, so that his masters have no hope of his staying in power.

[Correspondent] The arrogant powers have raised two isues in relation to the Iran-Iraq war. One is the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and the other is the possibility of Iran's invading the countries in the region. What is the reaction to this?

[Musavi] This is part and parcel of the efforts to create an adverse atmosphere, psychological warfare, political and military pressure on our system, to force us to give up this fateful war. By fateful I mean that we shall determine the fate of the arrogant powers, as well, in the war. The leader of the revolution has stated the main facts, that is, the nations no longer ask America's permission. It is a thing of the past when America had regional gendarmes such as the shah and other American puppets all over the world and when the nations were asleep. Today the nations have awakened. Whereever the nations have awakened, naturally, such remarks seem ridiculous to them. We all know that behind all the threats there is a misconception of the movement of the nations and self-interest seeking; of course, our nation will confront it.

Regarding the propaganda to the effect that if Iran wins this war it would attack other countries, that is one of the cursed rumors spread by arrogant governments to frighten countries in the region. For years since the revolution, we have advocated peace in the region, nonintervention by big powers in the region, and have declared that we respect the right of people in the region to determine their own fate. We have repeatedly declared that the Persian Gulf, Oman Sea, and Indian Ocean should be cleared of the superpowers. Of course, such propaganda is to set the governments in the region against our Islamic Revolution and our nation at the time of victory when the war is reaching a sensitive point. [end recording]